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SPACE CENTER Roundup

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Chandra opens new eye on universe

Columbia's astronauts glided to a smooth night landing at the Kennedy Space Center July 27, concluding their five-day mission to deploy the Chandra X-Ray Observatory.

Commander Eileen Collins flew *Columbia* to a perfect touchdown at 10:20 p.m. CDT on Runway 3-3 at the Cape's Shuttle Landing Facility, completing a mission spanning nearly 1.8 million miles. Pilot Jeff Ashby, Flight Engineer Steve Hawley and Mission Specialist Cady Coleman joined Collins on the flight deck for entry and landing. Mission Specialist Michel Tognini of the French Space Agency was seated alone down in the middeck. It was the 12th night landing

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NASA Photo STS093-322-017

The history-making crew of STS-93: (left to right, front) Commander Eileen Collins and Mission Specialist Michel Tognini; (back) Mission Specialist Steve Hawley, Pilot Jeff Ashby, and Mission Specialist Cady Coleman.

JSC invites community to Open House 1999

A Pathway to the Future

JSC civil servant and contractor volunteers are gearing up for the center's Open House event on Saturday, August 28. Quickly becoming a late summer tradition for many in the Houston area, organizers for this growing event anticipate a record crowd with increased cultural diversity.

The event provides JSC employees the opportunity to personally share the excitement of space exploration with the people who make it possible.

"We hope our visitors will have a rewarding day as they tour our center for a better understanding of how their investment in NASA makes it possible for us to not only explore space, but also to provide real benefits to all our lives here on Earth," said JSC Director George W. S. Abbey.

"Based on the popularity of Open House in past years, we're expecting quite a turnout for this year's event," said Rob Navias, 1999 Open House chairman. "We have more exhibits to display, more buildings to tour and more entertainment than ever before."

Entitled "Pathway to the Future," the event is free to the public, placing JSC on center stage to showcase its many contributions to the human space flight program. More than 19 buildings on site will be open to the public, including Bldg. 30 housing Mission Control, where visitors can view both the space shuttle and International Space Station flight control rooms; Bldg. 5, where U.S. and Russian simulators are maintained; and Bldg. 9, where ISS, space shuttle and Soyuz mockups reside.

The variety of technological research being conducted at JSC, such as composite

materials development, plant growth, life support systems and physiological studies, will be on display in Bldgs. 9S, 29, and 37. NASA's new X-38 crew return vehicle and the inflatable TransHab module also will be featured.

A new feature for this year's event will be *A Musical Voyage Through Space*, a combination of terrestrial compositions performed by the Clear Lake Symphony and celestial imagery captured during space flight in the refurbished Teague Auditorium at 4 p.m.

Teague will also host other special programs throughout the day for the public focusing on the International Space Station and Mars exploration.

The famed astronaut band, "Max Q," and the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo will provide entertainment for JSC guests.

Also in the Teague Auditorium, at 11:30 a.m. the crew of STS-93 will make a presentation on their historic mission.

Gift shops and souvenir areas will be open in Bldgs. 2, 3, 9, and 11. Snacks and beverage concessions will be available at outdoor locations as well as in Bldgs. 3 and 11. Astronauts will be available in the cafeterias, three other buildings and Ellington Field to sign autographs.

There will be numerous educational activities for children, as well as free tram transportation for visitors. Map brochures will be available to provide guests with information about the various sites available for tours, some of which are only open to the public on this day.

"The volunteers' amazing effort is appreciated and demonstrates the commitment that these employees and friends have made not only to their jobs, but also to the community," said Jason Kruska, co-chairman of the Volunteer Coordination. ■

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— Rob Navias

The success of Open House ultimately depends on the volunteers taking charge and helping out across JSC for this important day.

— Jason Kruska



VPP Star flag makes JSC debut.

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JSC prepares for annual Open House weekend.

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Team manages JSC's valuable information.

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